

**Virginia Advisory Committee for Education of the Gifted**  
**Thursday, February 15, 2001**  
**Longwood College**  
**Farmville, Virginia**

VAC/GT members present:

Chair T. Douglas	Past Chair L. Rae	C. Cottrell	L. Solod
G. Hubbard	S. Wadsworth	R. Turner	J. Jones
T. Wiseman	K. Brunick	A. Bowman	R. Turner
N. Ballinger	S. Winett	S. Keith	C. Rice
H. Dawson	E. Snyder	J. Leslie	N. Walsh
K. Eicher	N. Brittle	B. McGonagill	J. Crowther
J. Marler			

**Welcome and Old Business:**

The VAC/GT meeting was called to order by Chair, T. Douglas at 10:10 a.m. Chair Douglas introduced two new members, J. Crowther and S. Winett, and welcomed them to the advisory committee.

Minutes from the December 8, 2000 VAC/GT meeting were reviewed and approved.

The VAC/GT Nominating Committee shared information about nominees:

G. Hubbard for VAC/GT Chair                      K. Eicher for VAC/GT Vice-Chair  
J. Marler for VAC/GT Secretary.

The nominees were elected for these offices by a voice vote.

The VAC/GT Special Awards Committee report was deferred.

**Overview of the Academic-Year Governor's Schools:**

Attention turned to the Academic-Year Governor's School Directors and other guests for the day. C. Cottrell introduced D. O'Brien, Gifted Coordinator for Buckingham County. Special recognition of Academic-Year Governor's School Directors followed. The shared discussion was based upon the wishes of VAC/GT members to hear about each of the Governor's Schools from the Governor's Schools Directors who were present at the invitation of Governor's School for Global Economics and Technology serving Southside Virginia (Longwood site) Director, N. Carwile.

GSGET Director Carwile led the discussion with information about GSGET at Longwood. Other directors followed, in turn, to share information about their Governor's Schools

E. Lodel and M.A. Bosley spoke about Thomas Jefferson High School, in Fairfax County.

E. Brown spoke about the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, serving the Chesapeake Bay and Northern Neck areas.

S. Wadsworth spoke about the Commonwealth Governor's School, serving Spotsylvania and surrounding counties

R. Shelly spoke about the Roanoke Valley Governor's School.

- L. Hughes spoke about the Governor's School for the Arts, serving the Hampton Roads area.
- T. Morgan spoke about the Central Virginia Governor's School, serving Lynchburg and surrounding areas.
- S. Rollinson spoke about the Jackson River Governor's School, serving Clifton Forge and surrounding counties.
- D. Pollard spoke about the New Horizon Governor's School, serving the Hampton-Newport News area.
- P. Tharpe spoke about the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for International Studies, serving greater Richmond area.
- J. Collier spoke about the A. Linwood Holton Governor's School, serving Southwest Virginia.

VAC/GT Chair Douglas thanked the Governor's School Directors for sharing their information and for sharing insight into the programs at their schools.

#### **Subcommittee Time:**

Members of VAC/GT moved into separate committees to work with ideas and recommendations. Committee work continued through lunch.

#### VAC/GT Best Practices Committee addressed five areas of accomplishment:

- 1) Support the development of best practices in teaching gifted education that promote understanding of socio-economic status, cultural diversity, and sensitivity yet maintain gifted standards
- 2) Inquire about resources available in the Commonwealth of Virginia that may offer support services and resources for gifted education
- 3) Encourage Governor's Schools to continue to utilize available community resources to meet the needs of participating students in their particular programs
- 4) Support continuing education opportunities for teachers of gifted that promotes best practices in teaching instruction for all students in Virginia schools
- 5) Request that the state Board of Education, through state Superintendent DeMary, request the Virginia General Assembly to support these recommended actions:
  - a) Encourage school systems to utilize T/TAC support services
  - b) Encourage support of professional development to facilitate gifted endorsement for classroom teachers
  - c) Encourage staff development opportunities in differentiation for all teachers, since differentiation of instruction is the best practice for all levels of education.

#### SOL/SOA/SOQ Committee Recommendations/Report

- 1) Collect data on student performance on SOL tests and correlate information with student performance data on other tests such as SAT, AP, IB, Stanford 9, and other standardized test instruments
- 2) Request add-on endorsement in gifted education:
  - a) for those wishing to be gifted education coordinators
  - b) to undergird course work in differentiation for initial teacher licensure in Virginia
  - c) for professional development training in differentiation for teacher recertification in Virginia

3) Establish and fund localized, state-operated technical assistance centers to support gifted education with resources and training, and provide additional assistance , resources, and materials to the Governor's Best Practice Centers and/or to the T/TACs for the purpose of assisting in gifted education.

#### Governor's School Committee Recommendations/Report

Virginia's Governor's Schools Directors work in many important areas for the maintenance of their schools, including:

- a) high academic standards and standardization
- b) uniqueness
- c) flexibility to help meet student needs yet unresolved.

Funding issues and concerns that affect the real life of the educational programs at Governor's Schools and make them unique are serious issues that are the focus of the efforts of the Academic-Year Governor's School directors' organization. There are also endorsement and teacher training issues. Some of these issues need explanation. There are changes in the way Academic-Year Governor's Schools are funded. The funding formula may need to be redrafted.

There are at least three commonalities among the Governor's Schools that are important to consider. Each school has:

- a) a unique community of learners
- b) cutting-edge innovators
- c) research components for real-world products, services, and outreach for the community and the world beyond.

Governor's Schools' curriculum reflects community connection.

Announcements from Representatives:

On September 14, 2001, the Virginia Consortium will meet at the Virginia Historical Society, in Richmond for their fall meeting.

The Virginia Association for the Gifted will hold its fall conference at the Williamsburg Marriott from November 1-3, 2001. The theme will be *EDUCATING FOR EQUILIBRIUM: THE WHOLE CHILD*.

The Virginia Department of Education Report began with discussion of the DOE web page. Many items relating to education in Virginia will be posted on the web page, such as news announcements, the annual report, legislation (related to education) passed by the Virginia General Assembly, VAC/GT information, tables of test instruments, VAC/GT Board minutes, the Virginia Plan for Gifted, links to the General Assembly, and more.

Chair Douglas asked for nominations to replace the VAC/GT members who had served on VAC/GT and rotated off the advisory committee.

Chair Douglas thanked VAC/GT members for setting aside time to attend the VAC/GT meeting at Longwood. No public comment was made. The next VAC/GT Board meeting was set for April 27, 2001, at the University of Richmond. The VAC/GT Board meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

{VAC/GT minutes submitted by VAC/GT Secretary, J. Marler.}

